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**To:** Neighborhood Advisory Commission  
**From:** Brian K. Biesemeyer, Executive Director, Scottsdale Water  
**Through:** Adam Yaron, Commission Liaison  
**Date:** November 25, 2019  
**Re:** **Scottsdale Water's Direct Potable Reuse Permit**

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## **BACKGROUND**

Scottsdale Water has been a pioneer in the use of recycled water since the 1980's with the construction and operation of the Gainey Ranch Water Reclamation Facility to provide recycled water to the Gainey Ranch Golf Course. In the 1990's Scottsdale continued to expand its recycled water processes by designing and constructing the Scottsdale Water Campus. Since 1998, the Scottsdale Water Campus has provided recycled water to golf courses in north Scottsdale as well as recharging advance treated recycled water back into the local aquifer. This water is eventually withdrawn from the aquifer through several City wells in a process called indirect potable reuse (IPR).

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

In 2018, during one of the longest sustained droughts on the Colorado River Basin, the State of Arizona withdrew the prohibition on the use of recycled water for potable consumption. In July of 2018, at the Arizona Water Reuse Symposium, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) asked for a utility partner to apply for a direct potable reuse (DPR) permit and thereby assist ADEQ in working through the technical and water quality aspects of such a permit. In September 2018, Scottsdale Water and ADEQ entered into discussions on the topic and in February 2019 Scottsdale Water applied for the first facility DPR permit in Arizona as a demonstration project. The permit was granted on September 9, 2019. The permit limits the use of purified recycled water to "taste testing demonstration at the Scottsdale Water Campus and to provide offsite to beverage manufacturer(s) (beverage companies) to produce water-based beverages."

## **NEXT STEPS**

Scottsdale Water pursued the first DPR facility permit in the state to elevate the discussion of recycled water as a viable option for Arizona communities and to inform our customers about Scottsdale Water's long history of sustainable water practices through the use of advanced technology. In that effort, Scottsdale Water has no plans for using DPR for general consumption.